

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /017 W

-----280254Z 069106 /70

R 271504Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8885

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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FOR OED/MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, NI, OVIP

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN RAILWAYS CHIEF WISHES VISIT US IN BOTH
NIGERIAN AND OAU CAPACITIES

1. NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION GENERAL MANAGER T.I.O.
NZE GWU TOLD ECON COUNSELOR 1/26 THAT HE WOULD LIKE VISIT US IN
HIS CAPACITY AS RECENTLY ELECTED (OCTOBER) PRESIDENT OF UNION OF
AFRICAN RAILWAYS (UAR). EMBASSY HAD PREVIOUSLY INVITED NZE GWU
TO COME UNDER IVP PROGRAM IN MAY 1977 FOR WHICH HE IS NOW SUB-
MITTING FORMAL APPLICATION. ONE VISIT WOULD COMBINE BOTH
OBJECTIVES.

2. UNION OF AFRICAN RAILWAYS IS ARM OF OAU; CONCEIVED IN 1961,
HEADQUARTERED IN KINSHASA, MEMBERSHIP OF 22 NATIONS. ITS
ACTIVITIES APPEAR TO BE AINING MOMENTUM. PRINCIPAL 1976-77
PROJECTS ARE SETTING UP OF TRAINING INSTITUTES AND FACILITATION
OF INTERNATIONAL INTERCONNECTION OF VARIOUS NATIONAL RAIL LINES.
NZE GWU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE GENERAL MEETING WITH US RAIROAD
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OPERATORS AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS DURING MAY TO TELL THEM ABOUT
ORGANIZATION'S WORK AND PLANS, AND SEEK THEIR SUPPORT IN HELPING
SET UP RAILROAD TRAINING INSTITUTES (IN NIGERIA, EGYPT, ZAMBIA,
CONGO). POSSIBLE FORMS OF ASSISTANCE WOULD INCLUDE LOAN OF
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTORS FOR 3-4 WEEK PERIODS, USE OF EQUIPMENT FOR
TRAINING PURPOSES, USE OF FILMS, FINACIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. HE
EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH A SESSION BRINGING UAR MISSION WITH ITS OAU

CONNECTIONS INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH AMERICANS WOULD SIGN-
IFICANTLY EXPAND AFRICAN AWARENESS OF AMERICAN GOODS AND SERVICES
AND HELP US TO PENETRATE RAILWAY MARKET THROUGHOUT CONTINENT.

3. FOR THIS MEETING NZEGWU BELIEVES IT NECESSARY FOR UAR
SECRETARY GENERAL ADAMA DIAGNE OF SENEGAL TO BE PRESENT.
(FOR DAKAR: IS IT POSSIBLE TO INVITE DIAGNE ON SENEGAL IVP
PROGRAM AS OFFICIAL OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OR IN OTHER
APPROPRIATE CATERGORY?) SUGGEST COMMUNICATE WITH LEADING
COMPANIES IN RAILROAD SECTOR TO SEE IF RECEPTION MEETING
CAN BE ARRANGED AT ONE POINT IN MAY. EMBASSY HAS TAKEN ON
CONFIDENTIAL BASIS CORRESPONDENCE FROM UK AND ITALIAN RAILWAY
ASSOCIATIONS ATTEMPTING TO DRAW NZEGWU TO THOSE COUNTRIES IN
HIS OAU ROLE.

4. APART FROM SALES OF GE AND GM LOCOMOTIVES, US COMPANIES HAVE
MADE WEAK SHOWING IN CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT PHASES OF
RAILROAD MODERNIZATION PLANS. 4.7 BILLION NAIRA WORTH OF PROJECTS
ESTIMATED FOR FULFILLMENT OF PLAN. POSITIVE REACTION BY FIRMS
TO MEETING NZEGWU WOULD IMPROVE OUR POSITION HERE.

5. PLEASE CABLE RESPONSE AS TO WHETHER PROPOSAL HAS MERIT AND IS
FEASIBLE BEFORE BEFRUARY 13 WHEN NZEGWU LEAVES FOR EXECUTIVE
MEETING OF AFRICAN RAILWAYS IN CAMEROON. WE FAVOR PROPOSAL
AS IT REPRESENTS OPPORTUNITY TO AID AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT,
PROMOTE U.S. EXPORTS, AND SHOW OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS LONG DOUBTED OUR
INTENTIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: VISITS, RAILROADS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770113/aaaaalgf.tel
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Status: NATIVE
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